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Message Text

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14-11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 161632Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8373
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR GR
SUBJ: FURTHER REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS ON AID TO GREECE

REF ATHENS 2825, 2839, 2807

1. SUMMARY. ATHENS PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO CARRY STORIES ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS REGARDING AID TO GREECE. THE COMMENTARY HAS GENERALLY REMAINED CRITICAL. HOWEVER, PRO-GOG VRADYNI CARRIED A MORE POSITIVE ARTICLE ON APRIL 15 WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN GOVERNMENT INSPIRED. MEANWHILE 47 DEPUTIES (REPRESENTING ALL PARTIES) TABLED STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT WHICH WAS CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S AID OFFER. END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING A PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE CONTINUED FOR MAIN PART IN SAME CRITICAL VEIN APRIL 15 AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (ATHENS 2825, 2839). TO VIMA (LIBERAL) CHARGED THAT IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ACCEPT ASSISTANCE FROM A GOVERNMENT WHICH HELPED TO ESTABLISH THE DICTATORSHIP IN
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GREECE AND WHICH USES MONEY TO ELICIT CONCESSIONS SERVING ITS

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OWN INTERESTS. KATHIMERINI (CONSERVATIVE) ADDED THAT WASHINGTON FEELS THAT THROUGH BRIBERY IT CAN IMPOSE ITS WILL NOW AS IT DID DURING SEVEN-YEAR MILITARY RULE. AKROPOLIS REMINDED ITS READERS THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS "WHICH CANNOT BE ASSESSED IN TERMS OF MONEY BY THE GREEK CONSCIENCE". AVQHI (COMMUNIST) SUGGESTED IN A NEUTRAL COMMENT THAT CARAMANLIS' PUBLIC REACTION (ATHENS 2839) CAME ABOUT AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US EMBASSY WHICH INDICATED ITS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S POSITION TOWARDS U.S. ASSISTANCE.

3. MOST CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTARY APPEARED IN VRADYNI (PRO-GOG AND IT APPEARS THE EDITORIAL MAY HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INSPIRED) WHERE IT IS NOTED THAT CARAMANLIS APPRECIATED PRESIDENT FORD'S INTENTION TO OFFER AID SINCE THIS COINCIDES WITH THE FEELINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AT SAME TIME VRADYNI POINTED OUT, PRESIDENT FORD MADE HIS OFFER KNOWING THE GREEK VIEWPOINT ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY WHICH INDICATES THERE IS AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN ATHENS AND WASHINGTON (I.E. THAT GREECE WILL NOT ACCEPT AID WITH CONDITIONS).

4. HOWEVER, CRITICAL TONE WAS RESUMED, WITH NEWSPAPERS PUB-LISHING A JOINT STATEMENT OF 47 DEPUTIES DEPLORING THE U.S. OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. STATEMENT REJECTS "BELATED" INTEREST OF U.S. PRESIDENT IN GREECE, WHERE IT CLAIMED NEARLY EIGHT YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP WAS SUPPORTED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT. STATEMENT DESCRIBES AID OFFER AS DIMINISTHING NATIONAL VALUES WHICH "CANNOT BE TWISTED OR ALIENATED BY MONEY" AND CONCLUDED, IN EFFECT, THAT WHAT THE GREEKS WOULD ACCEPT IS NOT EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF MONEY BUT IN RESPECT AND JUSTICE TOWARD CYPRUS AND TOWARD ENTIRE GREEK NATION. (NOTE: MOST OF SIGNERS ARE YOUNG FIRST-TIME DEPUTIES. REPRESENTATION FROM EACH OF NATIONAL PARTIES IS BALANCED INCLUDING 21 DEPUTIES FROM NEW DEMOCRACY.) KUBISCH

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